MBR 613.10.1

Pacific Grove, Calif. Jan. 25. 1896.

Hon. Wm. Brewster.

Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

I send you this day by Freight the following.—

2 Aechmophorus occidentalis
4 Colymbus nigricollis californicus.
2. Podilymbus podiceps
1 Colymbus auritus
2 Arinator pacificus.
1 " lumme.
6 Cerorhinca monocerata.
1. Ptychoramphus aleuticus.
1. Brachyramphus hypoleucus.
3 " marmoratus.
1. Cepphus columba.
6 Aria troile californica.
1. Stercorarius parasiticus (Mr. Loomis did not find this bird here in the winter.)

6 Larus heermanni.
9 Larus ~~Kelpus~~ occidentalis, canus, brachyrhynchus, and delawarensis.
6. Sterna maxima.
1. Puffinus opisthomelas.
3. Phalacrocorax pelagicus resplendens.
1 " penicillatus.
1 Botaurus —
4 Fulica americana.
1 Arenaria.
1 Rallus.
3 Scolopacidae.

Total of 67 skins.

I would be pleased if you could send me the true identification of the birds -giving my number, so that my mistakes may be rectified - I keep a duplicate label in my note book of all birds taken also a few notes in regard to the bird. as to condition

of rep. organs, and ect. So if there be any question, it would give me pleasure to send you any information I may have concerning it.

If there are any of the skins you do not consider an honor to your collection I would consider it a favor if you would chuck it into the stove and send me the number and I will duplicate it if possable.

I find diffenty in keeping the birds within the space you gave me. I put the weighted boards on them, but do not like the result- looks as if the skins had been set on. and they show understuffing. Can't you give me a little more vertical room? (To birds up to size of Ring Billed Gull) and then you will have the most beautiful collection of sea-birds in the U.S.

As these bird will possibly be from three to six weeks in reaching you I will probably need some money before then. So if you could remit me any sum you think reasonable now, I would be greatly obliged. Very truly Alvin Seale

Seal – Alvin
Jan 26. 1896.

Stanford University. California Nov. 2/96.

Hon. William Brewster.

Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir;

I am a student in Zoology at Stanford University, and am working my way through college. Last year I made a large part of my expensis by assisting Mr. L.M. Loomis of the Calif. Academy of Sciences in making a collection of sea birds. This year the academy have very little money to spend on expeditions, so unless I can get some work to take the place of this, it will be impossable to complete my university course.

If there are any Pacific sea birds you would like to add to your collection - such as the Shearwaters - Puffinus griseus. P. opisthomelas. P. creatopus. or any of the western forms of gulls, pelicans, Jaebirers, terns, or any sea birds that are now making their way to the south and can be obtained. You could assist me very much by giving

me an order to collect some for you. I will warrent my work to be done in the best form and that the specimens will never show fat. which you know is usually the trouble with sea bird skins.

In regard to the grade of work I do I would invite you to write to Dr. D.S. Jordan, or Dr C.H. Gilbert, of Stanford University or L.M. Loomis of the Calif. Academy of Sciences, S. F.

Hoping you may be in a condition to add to you collections and thus assist me in college I remain Very truly Yours

Alvin Seale.

Stanford University, Palo Alto, California.

Seale - Alvin

Nov. 2nd. 1896.

8 Dec 96

1

Mr. Wm. Brewster,
Boston, Mass.
Dear Sir.

I send you this day by express the three bird skins I have remaining. My others have all been taken by a San Francisco M.D. I am again in the field, or rather on the sea, and this morning shot some fine Oidemia which I will put up and send you when dry.

In regard to the three specimens I now send you - Puffinus opisthomelas, Larus heermanni, and the murrelet I will say they were not put up as samples, being really what was left after my best ones were sent away, so if you give me any order I will attend that more will be

in poorer shape than the ones I now send you.

If you saw the birds Mr Loomis had in Washington you have seen some of my work, for I put up the greater number of those skins. Mr Loomis told me my work was very much admired by members of the A.O.U., birds ordered from me will be up to the standard of the ones you saw or I will not send them.

As to the birds I can get them, you will find a list in Calif. Water Birds No. II by L.M. Loomis, pp 14-30. I can get you all the birds named in that list with the possable exceptions of six or eight species such as. Aythya, Larus glaucens, Colymbus holboellii and a few others, one can never tell exactly what they can get

for there is always the possabelit of finding things quite unexpected and then of not finding things that should be here.

As to the compensation; As I will do nothing but first class work, work that can be relied upon not only in regard to the care taken in cleaning the skin and the conscentious scraping of fat, but the care given to the taking of sex and other data. I shall expect a fair price.

If you desire all the birds of the list that can be taken, which will include practicaly all, I will get them for you at $1.50 per skin. which is the price payed by the University for their skins ~~out~~ from the place. This will include a series of Puffins (seven or more of each species if you take)

also a series of the different gulls, terns Fulmars & murrelets.

If you desire only a few specified birds in series I will give you special terms when you inform me just what you want.

Very truly yours.

Alvin Seale.

Hopkins Seaside Laboratory
Pacific Grove, Calif. Dec 8. 1896

Seale – Alvin
Dec. 8th, 1896.

Pacific Grove, Calif. Dec. 27, 1896.

Hon. Wm. Brewster,
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Your letter received. Careful attention will be given your instructions. Am sorry I sent you the big albatross as you may have trouble in getting him to fit your cases.

Will you be so kind as to let me know how the birds come out in regards to packing. it is far to send them and I cant help but feel anxious.

Concerning methods of remitting - it would be most convenient for me if small sums (5 less than fifteen dollars) were sent by P.O. Money Order. Larger sums to be sent any way

your think best.
I would be glad if you would remit (for the first few shipments at least) when each is received.

Very truly Yours.

Alvin Seale.

P.S. My next shipment will be made in about one week from this time.

Seale – Alvin
Dec. 27, 1896.

Pacific Grove, Calif. Jan. 4. 1897.

Hon. Wm Brewster.
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:—

Your letter with money order at hand. Thank's for your offer of advance against bird skins in hand, & will probably not need it however.

Your instructions regarding depth of skins, and shipping by freight will be followed. I send you the following receipt for money received.

Very truly, Alvin Seale.

$12.00

Received of Hon. Wm Brewster for eight bird skins at $1.50. Twelve dollars ($12.)

Alvin Seale

Pacific Grove, Calif. Jan. 4. 1897.

Seale—Alvin

Jan. 4, 1897

Pacific Grove Calif Feb 14/887

Hon Wm Brewster
Boston.

Dear Sir:-

Can you make me an advance on the list of birds sent you June 25. I've had to stop work for lack of capital and a dislike for going in debt.

Very truly Alain Seale.

I have been very fortunate in securing Puffinus opisthomelas - taking 28 specimens last week. - they are still flying south in large numbers. the size of the ovum and testes have raised a doubt in my mind concerning their breeding habitat. I will send you specimens of the above organs so you may judge for yourself. - If you would like to double your series of this species I would be perfectly willing to do so.

Very truly.

Seale – Alvin
Feb. 14. 1897.

Point Sierra, Calif. March 1 [illegible]

[illegible]

([illegible]ge, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of Feb 28rd with money order for one-hundred ($100.) received.

Fortunately a friend advanced me funds to make me so I was not delayed but a few days. As a result I have been able to ship you the following specimans today.-

1 Stercorarius [illegible] (584)

2 Uprinator Pacificus (57, 586)

1 Stercorarius Parasiticus. (613)

2 Fulica americana. (585, 582)

3 Podilymbus podiceps (547, 580, 602)

3 Oidemia perspicillata (520) (509) (505)

2 Oidemia deglandi (498, 519)

1 Phalacrocorax ~~pericubatus~~ p. resplendens. (577)

2 Arnaria — (600, 599)

1 Aphriza virgata (601)

1 Actitis columba (572)

2 Brachyramphus marmoratus. (621, 620)

32 Ptychoramphus aleuticus (618, 577) 569

3 Colymbus nigricollis californicus (603, 614) (628)

2 Larus argentatus smithsonianus (595, 524)

4 Larus californicus (480, 598, 514, 538)

1 Larus glaucus? (591)

4. Calidris — [illegible]
3. Actodromas minutilla [illegible]
6. Puffinus opisthomelas.
1. Larus brachyrhynchus.
1 Aegialitis vociferus. (injured)
1 Merganser serrator.
5 Charitonetta albeola.

Total 54 Specimens.

I think you will find this lot better than the first because as the rain for the season is over I have been able to bring the specimens from the field in better condition - and much depends on this - as you know. I am not at all satisfied with my small skins and to do me justice I presume you will have to pull off the heads of three or four of my specimens (as I have done) and let me try it again. this is especially true of the Killdeer and stints.

Some time ago I captured a Larus heermanni with a tendency to abbinoism as it was peculiar in this respect. I send it to you - hoping, as your series for this [illegible] species is full, that you will accept it as a present.

Very truly, Alvin Seale.

Teale Alvin

Mar. 4. 1897.

Invoice of 2nd shipment

I may perhaps send another remittance of my 2nd Vol. and it is long, as regarding your 1st Vol. first work.

Pacific Grove Calif. 3-29/87

Hon. Wm Brewster.

Dear Sir! Yours of 3rd. 20th. at hand & am glad the birds reached you in good condition. But I can not understand why you paid $12. more freight. as the $6.35 I paid was full charges from Pacific Grove to Cambridge. and I sent you the receipt, so they could not have collected any more from you.

The express on 100 pounds from here to Cambridge is only $10.- so

Seal – A. | March 3/97

you paid more for freight than it would have cost by Express. I spoke to the agent (R.R.) here about it and was told there must have been a mistake as the full charges were prepaid. $18.35 on a little over 100 lb of freight is exorbitant!

I hope the 2nd shipment of skins have reached you in better condition than the first – as I know they will bring better skins. Don't hesitate to cast out any skin that is unsightly or that shows grease in an unreasonable way as I wish to keep my skins up to a high standard and will replace any not good.

Yours truly
A. Lerche.

Hopkins Seaside Laboratory, Pacific Grove.
Apr. 17. 1899.

Hon. Wm. Brewster.
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I send you today, per express, my last shipment of birds (for the season) consisting of sixty-seven (67) skins in two boxes. Total 85 lbs. The charges will be $19.45. I am inclined to think this a lower rate than you have been paying for freight - if now are it is higher and you will find out the difference I will pay all the advance in rate that sending them by express may have cost you.

I believe the amount of freight prepaid by me on the two former "shipments" amounts to but $10.8 instead of $12.00 as you suppose - I can not be exact but will be to the thousandth when I receive a statement from the agent with the bill.

I am very sorry that some of the birds received this time were broken and crushed, the latter come out of ladies' hats. I will endeavor to be more careful

2 Rolfe St. Berk. Cal. Oct 8th

[illegible] the balance of the birds order ready to send you next. Letter follows.

[illegible] Brandts [illegible] but the fact they are [illegible] and the [illegible] are quite dark around the iris [illegible] about the same time - their iris was also a different color - being green while the Brandts was blue.

There was another matter I wished to speak of. When I returned [illegible] Alaska [illegible] this summer (it was then last summer collecting for the University) I had you take a series of birds from the various [illegible] - providing they would all "pass muster" the price to be $2.00 each, and I will pay transportation to San Francisco.

Very truly Alvin Seale

Seal - Alvin

April 17, 1897.

Pacific Grove -

Stanford University, Cal. June 14 1897.

Prof. Wm. Brewster.

Cambridge Mass.

Dear Sir :-

I now have on hand (75.) seventy-five of the best skins I have ever put up, including my full series of Puffinus griseus an P. creatopus, & find I will need some more capital soon however, and so write to see if you can give me an advance of $100. on the birds in hand, and I will send the birds at any time you may order. I shall not go to Alaska this summer as it will probably be best to finish my University course first - which will take but four month more. I hope however to get to Alaska next year.

I have just had an offer from the Frank B Webster Co. to go on an expedition to the tropics. they have fitted out their own vessel and sail from San Francisco in a few days. Do you know if the man is reliable? I sent him some birds last march and have

Stanford University, Cal. 189

never received any pay. So I refused to go on the expedition. We thought a written contract, which for some reason the refused to give.

Hope your health is improving,

Very truly,
A. Seale.

Hopkins Seaside Laboratory.
Pacific Grove Calif.

If any references are desired by the museum, an advance, would be glad to have you write to Prof. Loomis or Pres. David S. Jordan.

Seal_A.
June 14. 97.

Stanford University Cal. Oct 20th 97

Hon. Wm. Brewster.
Cambridge, Mass.
Dear Sir:

I had very good success in collecting last summer. The first of September I stored all the birds I had taken for you in the Hopkins Laboratory and reentered Stanford University. Unfortunately a water-pipe in the Laboratory burst and about sixty of my best skins were spoiled. I at once ordered the two uninjured boxes sent to you and hope they will reach you in good condition. The other I have ordered thrown into the Bay as I dont care to send out birds with my name on them that look like drowned chickens. I will try and replace these next holidays.

By the-way, great numbers of

water-birds are to be seen on San Francisco bay at the season- (Geese, Teal, Ducks & many varieties, and waders, Terns, and Gulls.) If you care for any of these - species I have not yet sent you it would be an easy matter for me to put up a few each Saturday as the Bay on only one and one-half miles from the University.

I received quite a large order for sea-birds from Grant of the British Museum, also from Herbert of the Tring.

Mr. Allen of the American bought what I had "left over" from my Summers work - one-hundred skins. odds & ends of various species - I was surprised to have him write in return "They were on the whole the finest lot of sea-bird skins he had ever seen."

Very truly Yours.
A. Beale.

Seale Calvin
Oct 20-1877

Dear Mast. 3-21, 1894

Hon. H. W. Elliott,

Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Your letter concerning my list of the Alaskan Crater Birds has just been handed to me from California. Please allow me to thank you for your great kindness in recommending it for publication. Such kindness is indeed a most encouragement to me.

I am now in San Francisco looking after the business interest of a San Francisco firm. Before my return to the United States, however, I will have more or less time for collecting. So I

I don't care for
any Alaska skins at present
W. B.

your still desire some
Alaskan Birds as agreed
upon last winter I can
perhaps get you some
interesting and valuable
specimens in my line
of business. I would not
like to agree to ship you
any before next October but
would collect more
than enough while there.
I believe the
agreed upon
are, How is
from me.

If you desire
in my line
I would be pleased to get
them for you without
additional charge.

Very truly yours

Seale Alvin
Mar. 21, 1898.

Bishop Museum. Honolulu. H.I.
Jan. 14, 1900.

Hon. Wm. Brewster
Cambridge, Mass.
Dear Mr. Brewster;

Your letter of Dec. 30 has been forwarded to me from Pacific Grove, Cal.

It gives me pleasure to write that I have secured a good ~~for~~ position for one year at least, in the Bishop Museum at this place, The Founder, Mr Bishop of San Francisco, has instructed me to build up the finest collection of Polynesian birds to be found in the world. The museum furnishes transportation and pays all collecting expenses and a seventy five ($) per month to start with.

I hope, if our esteemed director Prof Brigham, will allow to build

up a good Dept. of Ornithology; unfortunately they are not much for Science here, but insist on birds being mounted on little stands; which I consider a sad loss of good material.

I hope to send most of my field notes to the Ibis or Auk.

I shall visit most of the Pacific Islands and if I can do you any favor I would be pleased to do it in return for your kindness to me.

very truly
Alvin Seale.

Seale, Ala
Jan. 14, 1900